

A True Account of the Barbarous Cruelties Committed by the F R E N C H in the Palatinate, in *January* and *February* last.

Faithfully Translated from the *Higb-Dutch Copy*.

With Allowance.

ON Tuesday morning, Jan. 17. about nine of the Clock, above three thousand of the Confederate Troops were seen behind the neighbouring Vineyards, before the *Spire-Gate*, which presently occasioned an alarm at *Heidelberg*: the most part of of the Horsemen being gone out to fire *Ladenburg*, (which Village had before paid Contribution and Forage, besides the great Quarter payment.) A Principal Officer of the Confederate Troops discouried some of the Electors Subjects who were at *Heidelberg*, who informed him in what manner they had been treated by the *French*. He encouraged them with hopes of a speedy relief, and advised them that if they owed any thing to the *French*, they should pay it: but in case the *French* committed any Hostilities against them, he ordered them to give notice to their Headquarters, and tell the *French* Commander there, that if they would not cease their Outrages, and Robberies on the Subjects, it should be severely revenged when they Conquered *Heidelberg* again: which advice was carefully observed. The Confederate Troops withdrew the same morning; and on the next day by two of the Clock in the afternoon, the Brigadeer *Melac*, (who lay at *Heidelberg* with all the Horse, and part of the Foot) divided his Troops into Parties, before the *Spire-Gate*, and in *Robrbach*, *Laimen*, *Nusshock*, *Wieselock*, *Kirchheim*, *Bruckhausen*, *Eppenbeim*, *Wieblingen*, *Edingen* and *Neckarbaussen*: and notwithstanding those places had paid all their Contribution and Forage, they plundered them, and Fired the Villages, burning seven hundred Houses, Stables and Barns, Provision and Household-stuff. The people endeavouring to quench the Fire, they forcibly kept them off, and treated them most inhumanly, particularly the Mayor of the Town, whom they stripped stark naked.

Some of the *French* Troops stayed there that night, and part of the day following, (which was the 19.) and not being fatiated with Barbarity, Fired *Wieblingen*, and that small part of the Villages which the former

Fire had spared, and continued their spacious Plunder.

On the 20. the Brigadeer *Melac* went out again with a strong Party of Horse and Foot, and joyned himself with some Troops of *Manbeim*, intending to do the like to *Ladenburg*, and *Weinbeim*, but the swelling of the River *Neckar* preventing their passage, forced them to desist.

On the 21. the Brigadeer *Melac* went out again with a strong Body of Horse and Foot, and passed the *Neckar* Bridge, near the side of the *Neckar*. Not far from *Neuenbeim* under the Vineyards, a great number of *Banditti* lay in Ambush, and obstructed the passage: these *Banditti* fired day and night over the *Neckar* into the Town, and Suburbs, upon the *French* Guard. The *French* Horse planted themselves beyond the *Neckar* near the Bridge; and the Foot were commanded to the Vineyards, on the way to *Neuenbeim*, where the *Banditti* had stopped the Passage. The *Banditti* fired briskly at first, but not being able to hold their Post, were forced to fly; which permitted the *French* Horse to open the ways again, and advance forward to *Neuenbeim*, whither they were followed by the Foot: and from thence they marched to *Handshuebeim*, and put all they met on the way to the Sword, setting Fire to that Fine Village, except the Church and Hospital, which were spared by the intercession of a person of Quality.

Several Citizens of *Heidelberg*, being harrassed by long and insufferable Quarters, and other Charges, especially by the *French* inrolling all the Men from seventeen to forty years of Age, fled to *Handshuebeim*; but the arrival of the *French* Troops causing them to hide themselves in the Woods, they were most of them killed. Among others a Fishmonger at *Heidelberg*, was killed by a Bagonet, and his Wife being big with Child, they ripped her up, and took the Child out of her Womb.

1. Several Childbed Women lately Delivered, endeavoured to preserve themselves in Cellars, and at night to hide themselves in the Snow, being compelled to expose them-

themselves to the severities of the open and sharp Air, because they were not able to go any further: they having no sustenance, were forced to quench their Thirst with Snow.

2. Other Women were stripped stark naked, but some French Officers having more humanity than the rest, gave them their Cloaks, and to preserve them from the fury and rudeness of the Soldiers, ordered them to be conducted towards *Heidelberg*.

3. A Woman endeavouring to escape, was shot in the Hand on the Hill of *Kesten-Wood*, where she remained all night without dressing her Wound, or any sustenance, but what the Snow afforded. She afterwards got to *Neckar-mund*, where her Hand was cut off.

4. Several Virgins were deflowered, particularly one about fourteen years of Age was Prostituted, and Barbarously treated in the Streets before all people that pass'd by. Also another Woman near the Hospital was held by four, whilst a fifth exercised his Brutality on her. A Woman near the time of Delivery flying into a Cellar to save herself, with a Child in her Arms, was most Immodestly and Barbarously abused by several, in sight of her Husband.

5. A Student of the School of *Neckar*, at *Heidelberg*, going some days before to see his Sister, who lived at *Neibenheim*, was killed with a Blunderbus.

6. Another young Man was shot in his Head, whereof he died.

7. Some Antient persons of fifty, sixty, and seventy years of Age, were Barbarously Murdered. Two old Beggars were Killed. Another about eighty years old had his Hand cut off one day, and next day was shot to death. Another about seventy they stripped stark naked, and made him stand upon his Head, whilst they held him up by the Legs and pumped him.

8. Such was the Barbarity of these Blood-suckers, that the poor in the Hospital were forced to hide themselves in Cellars, and not being safe there, by reason of the strict search, they retired to the Woods in the night, and had no other sustenance than Snow, which increased so much that it detained them there three days, from whence they at last got to a little Town called *Sebonan*.

9. They likewise fired upon the Keeper of the Hospital, and the Protestant Minister, who with great difficulty escaped to *Sebonan*, being reduced to a miserable condition by extreme grief, and the severity of the Frost.

10. The whole Hospital was Plundered, and Robbed of all their Provisions and Necessaries. They pulled the Feathers out of the Beds, and putting Milk and Flowers amongst them, trod them under their feet. They stripped a Scrivener in the Hospital, who was before in a very miserable condition.

11. The very Churches could not escape their rapacious Hands, they fold the black Table-Cloth at *Heidelberg*. The Guard at *Hansbueheim*, Lodged themselves in the Church, and kept Guard therein. The French Soldiers stabbed some dead Bodies, and cut off the Noses, and Ears of others, and carried them to *Heidelberg* in Triumph, where they most inhumanly rejoiced over the Trophies of their cruelty.

12. The Head Bailiff of *Hansbueheim*, a Man of very good repute, was stripped, and kept three days naked a Prisoner in the Church, under the pretext that he should not harbour the *Banditti*, who had threatned to fire his House.

13. Two Men of *Hansbueheim*, and a Woman and Child, hiding themselves under a Bedstead, were burnt to ashes.

14. At *Ladenburg*, the Horse and Foot made a general Plunder. Afterwards they endeavoured to Plunder *Weinheim*, but were prevented by the vigorous defence of the Town, which forced the French to retire; and lye that night in *Schriesheim*, where they burnt in the Street all Household Goods, as Cabinets, &c. They took away and destroyed all things, mingling Corn, Flowers, Feathers, and all things together, thereby to render them useless. The Inhabitants fled to the Hills and Rocks, and durst not come home until the Brigadier *Melac* sent for them, and at last promised them that he would not hurt them, nor burn any more, which proceeding threw several of them on their knees before him.

They likewise Plundered *Neuenheim*, and *Dassenheim*, Robbing them of all their Goods, Cattel and Provision. They also did the like at many other places.

The dead Bodies in and about *Neuenheim*, and *Hansbueheim*, lay three days in the open Air. The Soldiers marched over them, and cast burnt Straw upon them, and drove Coaches over them.

On February 3. they begun to bury the dead. They buried fifty two, young and old, which they found in the Streets in and about *Hansbueheim*.

The certain number of the dead we cannot yet know, the Soldiers themselves told us above one hundred and fifty, which was all done in less than eight days time.